

off some who are eligible—and needy. But in Creek County, officials say, many of those, like Ms. Nance, disqualified themselves after finding jobs. Others already had “underground” jobs—baby-sitting, housecleaning, working a booth at the flea market—and may not have deserved benefits in the first place. Officials here figure as many as half of all recipients have such off-the-books jobs; the \$307 monthly payment for a parent of two children, after all, isn’t much to live on. “We’re discouraging the marginal, extra-money folks, a lot of those who didn’t need it,” says Wayne Thiltgen, a creek County caseworker.

As recipients’ attitudes are changing, so is the administrators’ thinking. Dee Anne Ruggs, who oversees the former AFDC program (now called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) for Creek County, even set up a “Super Bowl” competition to see which caseworker could get the most people into school, job-training programs or work. The winner, Mr. Thiltgen, got an ice-cream sundae.

“WHY WOULDN’T THEY BE SCARED?”

Though he says he doesn’t try to scare his clients, Mr. Thiltgen is aware of the underlying fear. “I’m using that to my advantage,” he says. “The idea in the community is that we’re going to kick everybody off.” Ironically, he says, some of those responsible for the panic are welfare activists who direly predict a wave of misery following reform. “Listening to these sound bites on the news, my God, why wouldn’t they be scared?” Mr. Thiltgen says of his clients.

Despite the declining rolls, Creek County still faces the challenge of hardcore cases, including those with multigenerational dependency, without education or addicted to drugs or alcohol. The new federal law allows 20% of the caseload to be exempt from time limits because of such problems, but that may not cover all the hard-luck cases.

Tarlina Turner, 31, knows about the new law. She was reared in a family on welfare, has received AFDC in her own right for the past 10 years, and lives with her diabetic mother and three children in a home that is little more than a shack beside a dirt road outside Bristow, Okla.

“Don’t mind the chicken poop,” she says, leading a visitor past the chickens, dog and cat on the porch and into her home, where tape plugs ceiling leaks. Her ailing mother needs to have her nearby, and Ms. Turner doesn’t have a car. Meanwhile, county officials support her claim that there is neither work nor public transportation nearby.

Ms. Turner has already come within days of being cut off, agreeing at the last minute to join a job-training program. “I better get up and get work; I don’t have a choice,” she says. But she has little confidence in her prospects.

Another unanswered question about the rapid caseload reduction is how many of those who have moved off welfare are working in secure jobs. If some of these former recipients can’t hold their jobs, the case reductions could prove temporary.

Even those working aren’t always confident. Karen Michael, on AFDC for two years, says she was “extremely worried” about the time limits and used the deadline to motivate herself to finish training as a licensed practical nurse. She now makes \$9.75 an hour as a nurse. Yet, faced with the loss of Medicaid, food stamps and child-care benefits because of her earned income, she finds herself only marginally better off than when she was on welfare.

Ms. Michael had to forgo plans to get her registered-nurse degree, which would allow her to earn more than \$20 an hour and perhaps leave poverty for good. If not for the

pressure of time limits, she says, she probably would still be in school. She would still be on welfare, but she might also have a better chance of staying off permanently. “The option,” she says, “was not there.”

SALUTING MONIQUE ALITA GREENWOOD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to introduce my House colleague to Monique Alita Greenwood, a superb editor and entrepreneur in my congressional district.

Monique was the first editor-in-chief and publisher of color at Fairchild Publications, where she conceived Children’s Business, a monthly trade magazine. Her direct efforts greatly helped to open the doors of the modeling industry to children of color.

Since February 1996, she has served as the editorial style director of Essence magazine. During her tenure she has revamped the fashion pages, giving them more impact and making them more serviceable to Essence readers.

Monique is the owner of Akwaaba, a bed and breakfast mansion in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Her Afrocentric business opened in 1995, and it has been the subject of considerable press coverage.

A devoted mother and wife, Monique is a pillar of the community. She is married to Glen Pogue and they have a 5-year-old son, Glynn. Despite her hectic schedule, Monique is active in local organizations and is the cofounder and national president of a literary society of African-American women. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Howard University, and is a former recipient of a Points of Light Award from former President Bush.

RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS FOR AMERICAN SAMOANS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will afford U.S. nationals the opportunity to participate in Reserve Officers’ Training Corps scholarship programs.

Under current law, American Samoans born in American Samoa are considered U.S. nationals. These are persons who owe their allegiance to the United States, but are not U.S. citizens. Persons born in American Samoa are the only persons in the world who are given this status, as persons born on all other United States soil may become United States citizens by right of birth.

Also under current law, only U.S. citizens are authorized to enlist in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, or ROTC for short, scholarship programs, and only U.S. citizens are eligible to become military and naval officers.

The legislation I am introducing today would require U.S. national residents residing in a State of the United States and desiring to

apply for a ROTC scholarship program, to file an application to become a naturalized citizen within 60 days of being accepted into the program. The legislation would also require U.S. nationals who are not residents of a State of the United States, to become a resident of a State, and to file an application to become a naturalized citizen within 60 days of becoming a resident as defined in our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation strikes a fair balance between two competing interests. On the one hand, it gives the residents of American Samoa the same opportunities to become military and naval officers as the residents of the States and the other territories. On the other hand, while keeping the requirement that all military and naval officers be U.S. citizens, it requires U.S. nationals to prove their willingness to serve our country in a timely manner, thereby ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not spent on someone who will later prove ineligible for service.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a copy of the legislation with my statement.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS.

Section 2104(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or national” after “citizen”;

(2) at the end of paragraph (6), by striking “and”;

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

“(8) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

“(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421–1459), become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the program for advanced training; and

“(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

“(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

“(ii) the date that he is accepted into the program for advanced training.”.

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS.

(a) GENERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2107(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or national” after “citizen”;

(2) at the end of paragraph (4), by striking “and”;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

“(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421–1459) become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the financial assistance program; and

“(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

“(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1)

of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

"(ii) the date that he is accepted into the financial assistance program."

(b) ARMY RESERVE AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2107a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or national" after "citizen";

(2) at the end of paragraph (5), by striking "and";

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

"(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421-1459), become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the financial assistance program; and

"(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

"(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

"(ii) the date that he is accepted into the financial assistance program."

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 12102(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "or" the first place such term appears;

(2) by inserting a comma after "United States" the first place such term appears; and

(3) by inserting ", or is a national of the United States eligible (as provided in sections 2104(b), 2107(b), or 2107a(b) of this title) for advanced training in, or financial assistance as a member of, the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps" after the close parenthesis.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Democratic leadership's proposal to add children's health care to the priorities we address this session.

Today more than 10 million American children have no health insurance coverage.

On Tuesday, the New York Times reported that over the past 5 years the number of children without insurance has risen twice as fast as the number of adults.

Most of these are the children of working families earning between \$15,000 and \$45,000 per year.

In my State, the Maine Health Care Commission estimated that in 1996, 36,000 Maine children had no health insurance coverage.

Ninety-one percent of Maine's uninsured children live in families with at least one working parent.

Ten million American children relying on emergency room treatment instead of a family doctor is wrong—and expensive.

We can and must do better.

This Congress should encourage kids only insurance policies and expand basic Medicaid coverage to uninsured children.

PRESS FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced a bill that is intended to provide a special immigration status for journalists working in Hong Kong, in the event that there is a crackdown on the press after this British colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty on midnight, June 30, 1997.

The human rights community and the business community may have different views about the future of Hong Kong, but everyone agrees that maintaining freedom of the press and the free flow of information in Hong Kong is essential to protecting its way of life. The economic miracle of Hong Kong is fed by the free flow of information, not only about market activities and economic trends, but about what is going on in the world. As we all know, in mainland China, the press is not free to report on whatever it sees fit. The state tightly controls the media and does not hesitate to imprison or otherwise censure legitimate journalists who are attempting to report on important events within and outside China. This rough treatment is not limited to the domestic Chinese media, but extends to foreign media as well. But while foreign journalists have the protection of their own governments, the domestic press corps does not have this luxury.

Today in Hong Kong, the press is one of the freest in the world. Hong Kong proudly boasts that they have more newspapers per capita than anywhere on Earth. Yet this freewheeling, open society will soon become part of an authoritarian regime which views the media with distrust, if not outright animosity. When these two views of the press collide, unfortunately, problems may arise. While it is my strongest hope that China will realize the important role that the media plays in Hong Kong and live up to its obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, I am not so optimistic to believe that Beijing will graciously tolerate critical media coverage.

There have already been disturbing statements by high-ranking Chinese officials concerning limits on the press. Blacklisting of journalists, restrictions on what can be reported, and the arrest of Hong Kong journalists in China have sent shockwaves through the journalistic community in Hong Kong. My discussions with journalists during previous trips to Hong Kong in 1989 and 1992 prompted me to first introduce this legislation in the 103d Congress. While I was there this January, I again met with a group of journalists and they expressed their concerns about the type of pressure they already see coming from Beijing. Economic blackmail and loss of access are real problems for these persons whose livelihood depends on getting a story.

Freedom of the press is something that we take for granted here in the United States. We know how important a free press is to preserving our democratic institutions and fueling the engine of economic growth. This legislation will send a strong message that the Congress and the people of the United States are watching what happens to journalists in Hong Kong and that what happens to them is important to us, not only because of the impact it has on United States economic interests

there, but because freedom of the press is something that we deeply believe in. It will also send the journalists of Hong Kong a message that they have a safety valve, that they can continue to do their jobs with a measure of protection, and contribute to the unique and remarkable way of life that Hong Kong has enjoyed for so many years.

I commend this important legislation to my colleagues and ask for their support.

OFF WELFARE: THE MENTAL MIGRATION

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, to all colleagues concerned about welfare, I commend to you the February 14, 1997, article by Washington Post writer William Raspberry. He points out that welfare will not change, in fact, cannot change unless there is a spiritual and mental dimension to any assistance provided to the recipient.

Raspberry quotes Robert Woodson, Sr., head of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise,

What we need is to establish a new migratory pattern . . . The people who went from rural Mississippi to Detroit did so because they kept getting positive feedback from those who'd already made the trip. The photographs, the sophistication, the Cadillacs rented for trips back home—all these produced a culture of expectation. People looked and said, "Hey, he's no smarter than I am. I could do it, too."

Woodson and Raspberry are not talking about a geographic migration for those on welfare, but a mental one—from one attitude to another. This article demonstrates that the responsibility lies not merely with the welfare recipients, but with all of us. We must all be prepared to spread the news when welfare reform works; we must share the success stories, to encourage those who are still hesitant and unsure of themselves.

I enter Mr. Raspberry's column into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 14, 1997]

OFF WELFARE: THE MENTAL MIGRATION

(By William Raspberry)

Years ago, somebody figured it out. Trying to make it on a tiny family farm is desperate work; share-cropping is worse, and there's not much employment to be had in the nearby towns. But I've heard (from relatives, friends or news reports) that there are good union jobs to be had in the steel industry. I think I'll save up bus fare, ask my cousin to put me up for a while, and head to Pittsburgh.

That calculus, multiplied thousands of times, produced a South-to-North, farm-to-city migration that continued even after the decline both of unions and of the steel industry took away much of the logic.

It frequently happens that way. Decisions reached with some deliberation by a few become cultural patterns for the many, building habits that survive even after the reasons for them have been forgotten.

It will almost certainly happen that way with welfare reform. It may be inappropriate to compare long-term welfare recipients with refugees from the tenant farms. But they do have in common that they availed